

Artificial Intelligence, Blue Economy and Interreg Synergies - Connecting Ideas and Territories through AI

12 February 2026



An inspirational event organised by the projects funded by the Interreg Italy–Croatia Programme under Priority 1 “Sustainable growth in the blue economy”. With this event, EU-funded projects come to play an active role in raising tangible issues coming from territories and exploring ways to find solutions through AI.



AGENDA

Moderator of the event: **Carlo Pignatari** - Business developer at Associazione Big Data.

09:30 - 10:00 | **Institutional Welcome**

- **Vincenzo Colla** - Vice-President Emilia-Romagna Region, in charge for Economic Development and Green Economy, Energy, Vocational Training, Universities and Research
- **Elena Fabbri** - Director of Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences at Bologna University
- **Silvia Comiati** - Head of Managing Authority of the Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme

10:00 - 10:30 | **Unlocking a Resilient Future: Coastal Resilience and the Blue Economy through AI**

Keynote speaker: **Nadia Pinardi** Professor of Oceanography at Bologna University. Member of the European Academy of Sciences and of the Scientific Council of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. Chair of the UN Decade of Ocean Science programme CoastPredict and Director of the UN Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience.

10:30 - 11:00 | **AI Working for Territories to catch new challenges for the blue bio economy**

Sanzio Bassini – CINECA Director of SuperComputing Applications and Innovation Department in dialogue with **Marina Silverii** - Executive Director of ART-ER Attractiveness Research Territory

- What does it mean to be an "AI Factory"?
- Which territorial challenges can supercomputing address?
- How can AI truly support those working in the sea, fisheries, energy and environmental monitoring?

11:00 - 12:00 | **AI at Work: Navigating and Solving Project Ecosystem Issues**

Priority 1 projects present themselves as carriers of real challenges, data, contexts, communities, and needs

Round 1 | The Sea to Monitor and Understand

Projects: **Brigantine, Eccentric, 3EFishing, DIH InnovaMare**

- DIH InnovaMare: **Jakov Mozetič**, AI Integration Engineer & USV Operator
- ECCENTRIC: **Marco Galanti**, t2i Innovation Area Manager
- 3EFISHING: **Igor Celić**, Consultant / Technologist
- BRIGANTINE: **Luca Di Gaspero**, Professor at University of Udine

Round 2 | Innovating Life and Work at Sea

Projects: **Marinet, Beyond, Best 4.0, Brigantine**

- MARINET: **Giuseppe Serra**, Associate Professor at the University of Udine
- BEYOND: **Marta Alvir**, Senior Assistant in University of Rijeka
- BEST 4.0: **Luca Rizzi**, Manager at New Product Development Unit in CETMA
- BRIGANTINE: **Francesco Boscutti**, Professor at University of Udine

12:00 - 12:20 | **Coffee break**

12:20 - 13:00 | **Experiences from Other Interreg and Mainstream Programmes**

Insights from Other EU Projects: Presentation of selected experiences from Interreg, Horizon Europe,

Digital Europe. Contributions from regional and national Programmes on the strategic value of AI

- **Zivko Kokolanski**, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University (Skopje) - GOTOTWIN project, IPA-ADRION Programme
- **Daniela Ferrara**, Emilia Romagna Region - SHARPEI project, Interreg Europe
- **Paolo Perucci**, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region - CEDAR project (Common European Data Spaces and Robust AI for Transparent Public Governance), Horizon Europe Programme
- **Simona Lullo**, Veneto Region - Klens project, Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme

13:00 - 13:15 | **Plenary Conclusions**

Davide Baruffi - Regional Minister for Strategic Planning and Programme Implementation, European Fund Programming, Budget, Assets, Personnel, Mountains and Inland Areas

13:15- 14:30 | **Networking Lunch & Informal Connections**

14:30 - 16:00 | **IDEA SPACE – Co-Designing AI in Coastal Territories**

Facilitated by Interreg Italy-Croatia Priority 1 projects 4 parallel workshops:

- **Smart Marine Technologies for the Blue Economy**. Coordinated by Mateo Ivanac (BRIGANTINE, BEYOND, DIH InnovaMare);
- **Scaling AI for Mariculture: Data, Interfaces, Expertise, and the Role of Models**. Coordinated by Giuseppe Serra and Beatrice Portelli (MARINET).
- **AI for Smarter Investments in the Blue Economy**. Coordinated by Marco Galanti and Fabio Favero (ECCENTRIC).
- **"The Role of AI in Value Creation within the Blue Economy**. Coordinated by Carlo Pignatari (BEST 4.0).

14:30 - 16:00 | **Guided Study Visit to the ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts)**

Organised by CINECA (upon invitation only)

16:00 - 16:30 | **Closing: A Call to Collaborative Intelligence**

- Feedback from workshop coordinators
- Final conclusions by the moderator Carlo Pignatari and Paolo Rottoni, Project Manager at the Joint Secretariat of Interreg Italy-Croatia

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DAMA - Tecnopolo Data Manifattura Emilia-Romagna - Bologna

How to get to the Dama Tecnopolo in Bologna

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

From Bologna Central Station, take bus Line 25 to the Casoni stop.
Follow Via Casoni to the intersection with Via Stalingrado, then turn left onto Via Stalingrado.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ougHia9P3rfsAkSX7>

BY CAR

From the Northern Ring Road - TANGENZIALE

Take exit 7/7bis towards Bologna/Via Stalingrado.

From the HIGHWAY

Coming from the North

On the A13, take the Arcoveggio exit toward Bologna/Arcoveggio/Tangenziale/Bologna Centro/Bologna Airport/FICO Eataly World.

Then take the Tangenziale junction toward Ancona/Fiera-CAAB-FICO Eataly World/S. Lazzaro di Savena.

Coming from the East

On the E45, take the Bologna-S. Lazzaro exit toward Tangenziale/Bologna Centro/Bologna Airport.

Take the Tangenziale Nord and then Exit 7 bis, toward Bologna/Via Stalingrado.

Coming from the West

On the E45, take the Bologna-B. Panigale exit toward Bologna/Borgo Panigale/Tangenziale/Bologna Centro/Bologna Airport.

Take the Tangenziale/Aeroporto junction and merge onto the Tangenziale Nord. Continue on Exit 3-13 (signs for Padova/Ancona/Fiera Airport/S. Lazzaro di Savena) and then Exit 7 bis, towards Bologna/Via Stalingrado.

Free PARKING

Free parking with 90 spaces is available at the Tecnopolo Manifattura.

Parking is also available in the shopping area in front of the Tecnopolo building and in the streets adjacent to the event venue.

Paid PARKING

The Calzoni multi-story car park is available at Via Alfredo Calzoni, 12, 900 meters from the Tecnopolo Manifattura building.

Registration

Registrations are closed